AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 6, line 32: delete "ASTM D3776-96" and insert therefore –ASTM D3786-87--.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 24, 25, 35 and 36.

Please amend Claims 1-23 and 26-34 as set forth below:

1. (Twice Amended) A spun-laced poly(vinyl alcohol) web according to one of claims 34 and 38 produced by a method comprising the consecutive steps of:
   a. supporting a plurality of poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers on a mesh screen to form a web;
   b. pressure liquid entangling the web; and
   c. drying the web.
2. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the pressure liquid entangling is performed with water.
3. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after step a, the steps of
   a. cross-lapping the web; and
   b. stretching the web in the machine direction.

4. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after step c, winding the web onto a roll.

5. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the pressure liquid entangling is performed at a water pressure of from about 20 to about 120 bar.

6. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the drying is performed at a temperature that exceeds the water solubility temperature of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

7. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the drying is performed by passing heated air through the web.

8. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 1200 to about 2000.

9. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of hydrolysis greater than 80%.

10. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of hydrolysis greater than 98%.

11. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average denier of from about 1 to about 3 denier.

12. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average length of from about 30 mm to about 60 mm.

13. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 65 °C, and insoluble in water below 65 °C.

14. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 90 °C, and insoluble in water below 90 °C.

15. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein, after step c, the web has a thickness of from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

16. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein, after step c, the web has a base weight of from about 40 g/m^2 to about 100 g/m^2.

17. (Amended) The web of claim 1 further wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are carded along with other fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, rayon, cellulose, nylon, and ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer.

18. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after step c, adhering a substantially impermeable layer to the web.

19. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after step c, adhering a substantially impermeable layer to the web, wherein the layer is polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, or ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolyester.

20. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, after step c, contacting the web with a liquid selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, water, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, and acetone.

21. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises contacting one or both sides of the web with an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water repellency to the web.

22. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, before step c, contacting one or both sides of the web with an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water repellency to the web.

23. (Amended) The web of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises, before step c, contacting the web with an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water

repellency to the web, wherein the resulting web comprises:

a. from about 0.01 to about 3 wt. % fluorocarbon; and

b. from about 0.01 to about 20 wt. % wax.

26. (Amended) The web of claim 1 having an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96.

27. (Amended) The web of claim 1 having a flammability rating of IBE or DNI when measured according to ASTM D1230-94.

28. (Amended) The web of claim 1 having a water impact penetration less than 1.0 grams when measured by AATCC 42-94.

29. (Amended) The web of claim 1 configured into a surgical web selected from the group consisting of gowns, drapes, and protective apparel.

30. (Amended) The web of claim 1 configured into an absorbent pad.

31. (Amended) The web of claim 1 configured into an absorbent pad selected from the group consisting of gauze, swabs, towels, and wipes.

32. (Amended) The web of claim 1 configured into a wipe that is at least 25% saturated with a solvent.

33. (Amended) The web of claim 1 configured into an air filter.

34. (Twice Amended) A spun-laced web comprising a plurality poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

a. the web is non-woven;

b. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the web;

c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;

d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web;

e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;

f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and

g. the web has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 which value is not less than a base value corresponding to 50 psi as measured on a web having a thickness of 0.4 mm and a base weight of 70 gsm.

Please add claims 37-39 as follows:

37. The spun-laced web according to claim 34 wherein the web is a fabric.

38. A spun-laced web comprising a plurality of poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

a. the web is non-woven;

b. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the web;

c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;

d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web;

e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;

f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and

g. the web has a tensile strength in the cross direction as measured according to ASTM D5035-95 that is not less than a base value corresponding to 13